

group consisting of N^G-monomethyl-L-arginine, N-nitro-L-arginine methyl ester, N^G-nitro-L-arginine, N-iminoethyl-L-ornithine, N^G-amino-L-arginine, L-canavanine, citrulline, canaline, homocitrulline, and aminoguanidine wherein said condition is selected from the group consisting of arthritis, periodontitis, gingivitis, granulomas and fibrosis.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of N-iminoethyl-L-ornithine, N^G-amino-L-arginine, citrulline, canaline, homocitrulline, and aminoguanidine.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said effective amount is from about 1 to about 100 mg/kg/day.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the administration is parenteral.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the administration is intravenous.

6. A method for treating a mammal having rheumatoid arthritis comprising administering an effective amount of N^G-amino-L-arginine or aminoguanidine.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said granulomas are granulomatous hepatitis, Wegener's granulomatosis, granulomatous disease, allergic granulomatosis, granu-

lomatous arteritis-Folymyalgia rheumatica or hepatic granulomas.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said hepatic granulomas are hepatobiliary disorders.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said hepatobiliary disorders are primary biliary cirrhosis or granulomatous hepatitis.

10. A method for treating a mammal having chronic periodontitis and gingivitis comprising administering an effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of N^G-monomethyl-L-arginine, N-nitro-L-arginine methyl ester, N^G-nitro-L-arginine, N-iminoethyl-L-ornithine, N^G-amino-L-arginine, L-canavanine, citrulline, canaline, homocitrulline, and aminoguanidine.

11. A method for suppressing joint disease, inflammation, tissue swelling, and bone and cartilage degradation in a mammal having chronic arthritis comprising administering an effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of N^G-monomethyl-L-arginine, N-nitro-L-arginine methyl ester, N^G-nitro-L-arginine, N-iminoethyl-L-ornithine, N^G-amino-L-arginine, L-canavanine, citrulline, canaline, homocitrulline, and aminoguanidine.

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